

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01

SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SY-05

DEAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

EUR-12 /093 W

----- 086518

R 131048Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3255

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 25559

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, TH, XC

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES

REF: A) BANGKOK 25437; B) SINGAPORE 4223

SUMMARY. SHIP CARRYING 57 REFUGEES DEPARTS FOR MALAYSIA, WHILE
A NEW ONE REPORTEDLY ARRIVES IN PATTANI. CONSULATE SONGKHLA
UNDERLINES NEEE FOR MORE REGULAR UNHCR PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN
THAILAND. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE SHIP "MIGHTY" ARRIVED BANGKOK SEPTEMBER 10 CARRYING
57 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES (REF A) AFTER REPORTEDLY BEING REFUSED
ENTRY TO SINGAPORE WITHOUT PLACING \$5,000 BOND DOWN ON EACH ONE,
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ACCORDING TO MESSAGE WHICH UPI BUREAU CHIEF GALLOWAY IN SINGAPORE

CABLED TO HIS BANGKOK COUNTERPART RTG DID NOT PERMIT PASSENGERS TO DISEMBARK, AND SHIP DEPARTED AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 11 FOR PORT KELANG, MALAYSIA. IT SHOULD ARRIVE THERE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 14, STAY HALF DAY, DEPART FOR SINGAPORE OR BUTTERWORTH, THEN POSSIBLY GO TO KARACHI. SHIP CAPTAIN MAY TRY TO TRANSFER REFUGEES TO JAPAN-BOUND FREIGHTER IN SINGAPORE, IF GOJ CONCURS.

2. UNHCR INTERVIEWED REFUGEES DURING BRIEF STAY IN BANGKOK. THERE WERE NO ETHNIC CHINESE ABOARD. INDEED, UNHCR CONFIDED THAT ONLY SMALL NUMBER OF THEM WOULD FALL UNDER UNHCR MANDATE IF THAT ORGANIZATION REALLY FOLLOWED ITS OWN DEFINITIONS OF A REFUGEE. UNHCR IS TRANSMITTING RESULTS OF ITS INTERVIEW TO UNHCR KUALA LUMPUR. APPROXIMATELY 10 OF THE 57 WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE U.S. PROGRAM. POST WILL SUBMIT INFORMATION SEPARATELY ON THEM TO APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEES.

3. EMBASSY REPEATING BY SEPTEL MESSAGE FROM CONSULATE SONGKHLA NOTING FAIR RECEPTION ACCORDED BOAT OF 9 REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED THERE SEPTEMBER 9. OUR CONSUL IN SONGKHLA WAS ENCOURAGED BY FAVORABLE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE THERE AT THE TIME ON LOCAL OFFICIALS AND URGED THAT UNHCR ESTABLISH MORE PERMANENT PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH, A RECOMMENDATION WITH WHICH WE FULLY CONCUR. UNHCR'S DARRYL HAN, WHO WAS AMONG VISITORS TO SONGKHLA, IS CURRENTLY MAKING A SPECIAL STUDY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA BOAT PROBLEM IN HOPES OF FINDING SOME NEW SOLUTIONS TO THIS THORNY ISSUE.

4. PRESS REPORTED THAT ANOTHER GROUP OF 46 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES RECENTLY ARRIVED IN PATTANI PROVINCE. WE HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR STATUS.

5. RE REF B, WALL STREET JOURNAL'S BARRY KRAMER HAS BEEN WORKING ON BOAT STORY FOR PAST WEEK. BELIEVE NO ACTION SUCH AS THAT RECOMMENDED REF B NOW REQUIRED IN HONG KONG. IN ADDITION, AP OFFICE IN BANGKOK IS PREPARING A LONG ARTICLE ON THE SAME SUBJECT WHICH SHOULD APPEAR SOON. IN PREPARING ARTICLE AP HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM ALL ITS BUREAUS IN THE AREA. WE CONCUR WITH SINGAPORE'S ADMONITION THAT WE WOULD AVOID APPEARANCE OF PUSHING PRESS CAMPAIGN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO25559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760344-0986
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760969/aaaacghn.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 25437, 76 SINGAPORE 4223
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES
TAGS: SREF, TH, XC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006